

Newsletter

August 2025

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
15440 CR 306 – PO Box 1448
Buena Vista, CO 81211
719-395-2039
faithlutheranbv.org

In This Issue

August Birthdays
In Our Prayers
August Worship Assistants

Save the Date

August 4
National (USA)
Friendship Day

August 10
Mite Box Sunday

August 12
Elders Meeting
5:30 P.M.

August 14
Council Meeting
5:30 P.M.

August 26
DEADLINE for
SEPTEMBER Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

Confession and Absolution

"I, a poor, miserable sinner? Now wait just a minute here! I'm not exactly sure I like what you are implying here!"

Confession and Absolution is always a part of the Divine Service and it usually comes very near the beginning. This is because it is a preparation for what is to come; hearing God's Word and receiving the Sacraments. The introduction to confession and absolution in Divine Service IV says this, "Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned..."

To be sure, considering our unworthiness is not always a popular thought, is it? "Wait a minute... I'm not that bad! I give to the poor, I volunteer at the soup kitchen, I walk dogs for the humane society. I think I'm actually a pretty good person! I don't really know how I feel about all this 'by nature sinful and unclean' stuff."

The reality though is that we are sinful and unclean. Isaiah 64:6 says, "All our righteous deeds are like filthy rags." We have sinned against God in thought, word, and deed, both by **what we have done**, and by **what we have left undone**! St. Paul writes in Romans 3:23, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" and again St. Paul

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Pastor's Corner, Cont.

writes in 1 Timothy 1:15, "*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the chief.*" And yet so many are offended by the thought of confessing their sins; of admitting that they have done wrong and are indeed in need of forgiveness. Yet these things are true, whether we want to admit them or not! And ultimately, we need the forgiveness that only Christ can offer.

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 124:8) and "*I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin!*" (Psalm 32:5) I have seen people get so upset about confession because they don't understand absolution. These things go hand in hand and should never be separated! "I said I will CONFESS, and you FORGAVE!"

This brings us into The Office of the Keys. It is a special office and authority given by Jesus to the Church on earth with responsibilities to distribute the grace and mercy of God. This is seen most clearly in the public teaching, preaching, and leading of worship services (The Word), as well as delivering the means of grace through Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper (The Sacraments).

The scriptural basis for this 'office' is when Jesus calls Peter, and later the rest of the disciples, to the task of forgiving sins. He says, "*I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*" (Matthew 16:19)

The responsibility given to the disciples is to forgive sins where there is repentance. It does not give them the 'right' or any special ability to withhold forgiveness to someone who *is* repentant. Also, the forgiveness is not earned by the apostle or the pastor, it is only being distributed. The Absolution makes clear that this forgiveness is for you and that it is as true! "In the stead," that is, 'in the place of,' or 'in the position of Christ,' and "by his command, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Luther's Small Catechism tells us that we should believe this as if Christ himself were saying the words to you. And indeed, he is! Through His Church and by His Pastors and Priests Jesus is speaking this wonderful word of forgiveness and peace to you! In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, this is most certainly true! Amen.

Greetings in Jesus' Name,

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE STREAMING HAS MOVED!

Please go to our Faith Lutheran Church YOUTUBE channel

- All services are on our new YOUTUBE channel.
- You can find it on our website at faithlutheranbv.org under streaming and archived services, or search for Faith Lutheran Buena Vista on YOUTUBE.
- Upcoming and archived worship services will be there.
- Please SUBSCRIBE to this channel when you get there.
- Unfortunately, no phone dialup is available with the new system.

Please check in 5 to 10 minutes early.

God bless and keep you.



SUNDAY

Sunday's Adult Bible Study. We're studying various topics. Come find out what we're studying this Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Sunday Morning Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.

TUESDAY

LifeLight will resume in the Fall with a LifeLight study of selected Psalms, which will begin Tuesday, October 7. Enrichment magazines with worksheets will be ordered on September 15th.

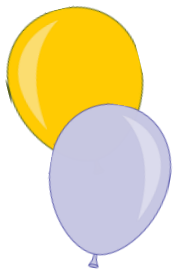
More info to follow in the September Newsletter.

Blessings,
Barb

Tuesday Evening Adult Bible Study. Pastor Sorensen is leading a Bible Study Tuesdays, weekly at 6:30 P.M., studying 1 Samuel.

THURSDAY

Men's Bible Study: taking a break until Fall.



August Birthdays

5 - Phil Utech	20 - Mark Brinkmann
5 - Olivia Ely	22 - Vaughn Bishop
13 - Marcia Mabey	23 - Jaxon Hoffmann
14 - Joe Holzwarth	24 - Chris Winkelmeyer
14 - Kim Roesler	24 - Jana Schumann
16 - Krystal Harms	





Please submit your articles and other input for the
SEPTEMBER Newsletter
to FLC's administrative assistant **ON OR BEFORE**
Tuesday, AUGUST 26TH, 2025



If you need to get in touch with one of the Elders, they have generously made their telephone numbers available . . .

Mark Brinkmann	661-444-7865
Joel Tarcha	970-819-8459
Bob Hickey	719-649-0403

FLC Office Hours: Rev. Sorensen's office hours at Faith are:

9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon Thursdays. Other times by appointment only.

Deadlines: Please make sure any information needing to be included in Sunday's **bulletins** is given to FLC Administrative Assistant by the **Thursday BEFORE that Sunday service**. If it is received after Wednesday, the information will then be included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Our bulletins can then be published in a timely manner.

Join us at home. Search for **Faith Lutheran Church Buena Vista CO** on **YouTube**. There you will find Live service and archived services.

OR go to: faithlutheranbv.org.

And follow the links to Services. See you online!

Last Half of June 2025 and First Half of July 2025 Attendance and Offering Report

Date	Church	Communion	Offering
June 22	37	23	\$1,824.55
June 29	40	25	\$1,513.55
July 6	35	27	\$2,464.55
July 13	46	34	\$2,074.35

Subject: Newsletter suggestions (5 W's)

When submitting articles for the monthly Newsletter please include the following:

Who (who is doing the event and who to ask questions or give suggestions to)

What

When - date and times.
(Start and ending times)

Where

Why

Volunteer needed?



Thrivent Action Team

All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type.

Benefit members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year (maximum of three).

A \$250 Community Impact Card will be issued which you can use as seed money to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact.

Those Serving Us This Month

Communion Setup

Month of August - Cindy Dunekacke

Altar Flowers

August 3 - Clare and Joel Tarcha

August 10 - OPEN

August 17 - Sharon and Ronnie Carter

August 24 - Ampy Swartz

August 31 - OPEN

Greeters

August 3 - Jerry Gallob

August 10 - Sherry Bishop

August 17 - Jerry Gallob

August 24 - Sherry Bishop

August 31 - Jerry Gallob

Ushers

August 3 - Ronnie and Sharon Carter

August 10 - Sharon and Ronnie Carter

August 17 - Ronnie and Sharon Carter

August 24 - Sharon and Ronnie Carter

August 31 - Ronnie and Sharon Carter

Elders

Mark Brinkman, Head Elder

Joel Tarcha

Bob Hickey

Reader

August 3 - Jana Schumann

August 10 - Colleen Miller

August 17 - Sherry Bishop

August 24 - Clare Tarcha

August 31 - Jana Schumann

Cleaning the Sanctuary and the Basement

August 3 - 9 - Ronnie and Sharon Carter
August 17 - 23 - Sharon and Ronnie Carter

Thank
You

From Sharon Carter, Stewardship Chair:

Please check your service date posted on the bulletin board by the main door of the church in the Narthex.

— **If not able to serve on that date, please find your own substitute.** —

Again, the volunteer flower chart for this summer has many openings. Please continue to check the chart to see if you'd be able to bring flowers on any of those dates.

As always, thank you for your faithful service.

Stewardship Chair,

Sharon Carter

303-881-9840

sharoncarter00@gmail.com

First Fruits

MISSION currently needs –

Items the Mission currently needs ...

***SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED ONE-DISH MEALS, PEANUT BUTTER,
JELLY, TUNA PACKETS, RAMEN NOODLES,
CANNED FRUIT and/or PRE-PACKAGED FRUIT CUPS***

-- reflecting the need to feed those without cooking facilities --

These items can be taken directly to the Mission on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 11 A.M. and 1 P.M.** - at their back door.

Food items can also be put in the collection basket in the church narthex.

Remember to grab a couple jars/cans every time you go to the grocery store.

Financial contributions are also welcome!

Please take contributions to their back door and knock to donate.

... and a big *thank you* to all for donations
from all of us at the mission!



Psalms 113:3
From the rising of the
sun unto the going
down of the same the
LORD'S name is
to be praised.

Giggle, laugh, 😂 and make joyful noises!

God gave us such a wonderful gift 📺
when He gave us the capacity to laugh!

And how much greater is that gift 📺 when shared with a friend.

The Bible encourages us to develop a cheerful heart, ❤️
not only for our own well~being,
but also for encouraging and uplifting others. 🧑🧑



My friend Fern calls 📱 me once in a while
to ask if I have anything to donate to a charity organization.
Whether I say "yes" or "no", she always makes me chuckle
by sharing a simple silly joke.

She is a friend 🧑 who cultivates humor and reaps a smile
from me every time.

I want to be that kind of friend, don't you?



Struggles 😞 and challenges 🤖 will always be a part of life,
but they don't have to consume us.

Jesus came to give us abundant life,
and He wants us to enjoy it.

Take time 🕒 to play, to be silly 🤪, to have fun!

Cut out a comic. Write 🖋️ down a joke.

Look for humor in the everyday "stuff" and share it with a friend!



The above writing is from the book "The Blessing of Friendship" by Karla Dornacher
www.karladornacher.com





Stephen Ministry

Look What God is Doing!

Hear about the surprising things that God is doing in Stephen Ministries.

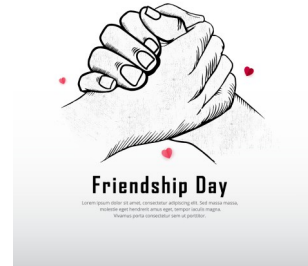
By Connie Wright



Sometimes life just isn't fair. When the burdens of life descend on us, who of us doesn't need encouragement, hope, support, and an upward outlook? For a heaping helping of God's love from a Stephen Minister, contact Connie Wright at 719-395-8386, or Pastor Sorensen at 402-432-5090.



**JULY 30 - International Friendship Day.
AUGUST 4 - National (USA) Friendship Day!**



HOLY HABITS for HOPE-FULL HEALTH Youth and Adults Need Each Other!

1. Together, we are the Church!
2. We share, learn, model, tell, and show others what Christ is all about!
3. Listen and learn as we talk and connect with the younger generation.
4. Look for trouble! Or better yet, look for the troubled and listen and support them.
5. Ask for help with projects from the younger people in your life and church. Offer to help and encourage them as well.
6. Forgive one another as we laugh, cry, and share forgiveness and hope in the Lord.
7. Affirm and encourage each other to spend time in service to the Lord and their neighbor.
8. Notice that the word "**AGE**" is a big part of the word "encour**AGE**!" There must be a message there somewhere as we share hope in Jesus with the younger and the older in our lives.

Thank You, Lord, for calling us Your children. Blessings and thanks, in the name of Jesus.

This is from the April, May, June Hope-Full Living devotional.

Dr. Rich Bimler, Ambassador of Health, Hope, and Aging! (AH_HA)

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.	4 National (USA) Friendship Day!	5 Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	6	7	8	9
10 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Mite Box Sunday	11	12 Elders Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	13	14 Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.	15	16
17 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30a.m. Sunday Service 10:30a.m.	18	19 Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22	23
24 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30a.m. Sunday Service 10:30a.m.	25	26 Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m. <div>DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER Newsletter input</div>	27	28	29	30
31 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30a.m. Sunday Service 10:30a.m.						

In Our Prayers

Thanks to our awesome Faith LC family for your prayers, delivery help, phone calls and visits during Bill's health issues.

Blessings and Thanks,
Bill & Barb

Please keep Lisa's mom, **NANCY BJORNSTAD**, in your prayers. She's on hospice. She is currently doing very well. She would love a visit or a card or a phone call from any of you.

Please keep Lisa's daughter **MANDI** in your prayers. She's having a series of six treatments every three weeks.

Please continue prayers for **LARRY HESPEL**, Marianne Kendall's brother. It's been determined that he has cancer. Further testing is being done.

GARY LONGWELL needs your prayers. He is in the Bear Creek Senior Living Center in Colorado Springs, 1685 S. 21st Street, Room 161. He is having problems with his heart. Also, pray for Dar, Becky and Marcia as well, as this is hard for the whole family.

Please keep **JOEL TARCHA** in your prayers for healing after back surgery.

Please include in your prayers: all those who are suffering or struggling with the recent fires (here) and floods (Texas).

Please keep **JAMES MILLER** to your prayers. He has a precancerous spot on his eyebrow.

***Please e-mail prayer requests to: secretary@faithlutheranbv.org
until further notice.***

**If you are sick or injured, please contact
Pastor or one of the Elders, so that we
may visit and pray for you.**